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HONGKONG, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20TH, 1890

The unofficial members of the Legislative

And been assured, said—"If the Colonel was polled to-morrow, I am sure the "would not be a dissentient voice with regard to the total abolition of all secret meetings of the Finance Committee." And the gentleman, we believe, was right, and that some certainty might be expressed to the exceptions being made as regards the Mr. RYAN of 1890 as distinguished from the Mr. RYAN of 1886 and the other unofficial members of the present day. Mr. MACDONALD, in his advocacy of the principle publicly, expressly claimed to be speaking the representative of the Chamber of Commerce. What warrant has been given his successor in the representation the Chamber to overthrow the word done by Mr. MACDONALD? If we believe that the unofficial members do not understand the effect of their resolution their want of intelligence is not at all creditable to them; and if they did understand the effect, they have laid themselves open to the charge of betraying the trust reposed in them by the public.

It is not difficult to trace what may possibly be the explanation of the extraordinary conduct of the unofficial members on the occasion. They desired to go into the question of salaries, a subject in connection with which there are details that, if they were considered, may be more appropriately considered in private than in public. They could have proposed in Finance Committee that the Council be recommended to appoint a special committee to examine into and report upon the new scale of pay; but instead of doing this, a resolution was hastily drawn up expressing more than was intended. When the consequences of passing such a resolution were pointed out by the Acting Governor to the gentlemen, they seem to have thought they would be looked upon as weakness to give way, and stuck to their idea out of obstinacy. They have got their way, and now they must abide by the consequences; and we can hardly expect that the public will place the same confidence in them now as before. We may mention one example to show the impropriety of the course that has been adopted. The matter is so small in itself that it can be referred to without any fear of the hypothetical remarks we are about to put forward being taken as conveying any seriously intended innuendo. Under the heading of Public Works, a vote of \$12,000 was asked for the lowering of Queen's Road West. Referring to this at a recent meeting of Council, the Acting Governor intimated that this was a work undertaken on the suggestion of the Hon. C. F. CHATER, who, in his excellency said, would no doubt be able to give the Finance Committee any information in connection with it that might be desired. Now, it may be asked, why should Mr. CHATER fear to give the information to the public?—why should he wish to run into the stock parlour and turn the key before he will open his mouth about it? No doubt the subject is desirable. We are not quite sure what it is, nor do we think many of the public do, but it may be taken for granted that it improves Mr. CHATER's property, that the public will also reap some advantage from the improvement. Then, again, there is Mr. WHITEHEAD for the Volunteers. The rotation was the same as before, but the Maxim gun is coming forward, and it will soon become necessary to consider the augmentation of the Volunteer force by the addition of at least one new corps. The subject can hardly escape mention in connection with the present estimates. Mr. WHITEHEAD was at one time, and may be yet, an advocate for the formation not only of a Maxim gun corps, but also a mounted corps for reconnoitring purposes. (When this idea was mentioned some people thought the mounted corps would be an excellent thing, but there were others who were ungenerous enough to suggest that it was a dodge to enable polo players to have their ponies kept at the public expense. Under these circumstances, anything Mr. WHITEHEAD may have to say on the subject of the Volunteer ought to be said in public and not in secret. Of course it will be understood that we make no imputation of ulterior motives against the unofficial members either individually or collectively. We have given above our explanation of the mistake into which they have fallen, namely, that it was made in the first instance to carelessness, and in the second to obstinacy. The mention of the Volunteers and the lowering of Queen's Road West has been introduced merely by way of illustration to show how secrecy might conceivably undermine confidence. We may conclude our journal with one word of hope. The course adopted this year in connection with the estimates need not necessarily be taken as a precedent for future years. The organization of the Finance Committee still remains, and it is not unreasonable to expect that before another year elapses the unofficial members will have recovered from the dementia which has now seized upon them.

MANDARIN INFLUENCE IN HONG KONG AND MACAO.

One of the most pernicious influences among the Chinese population both in Hong Kong and Macao is the terroristic, unseen but only too keenly felt, exercised over them by the mandarins on the mainland, who are able to put on the screw by means of their influence residing there. Not only does this tendency tend to render the task of administration here more difficult, but it frequently causes a miscarriage of justice, one side or the other being able by bribery to present witnesses coming forward for fear of their relations in Kwangtung being made to bear the consequences. The extent to which this system of vicious punishment is carried is little imagined by the bulk of the British and foreign residents, and is wholly unsuspected by many. Worst of not the

every now and again some particular calamity case occurs in which the screw has been turned on by the Kwangtung authorities, and a flood of light has been directed upon the *modus operandi* by some case in law courts, no one would dream that the majority of the well-to-do Chinese in the Colony are literally kept under the thumb of the mandarins because their relatives in the mainland are at their mercy. The case of the notorious LEE KUM-SWAI, who was convicted some seventeen years ago of threatening the Club compadore with the vengeance of the mandarins, and sentenced to a long term of imprisonment, was an instance in point. He was a small mandarin, or, claimed to be, and in any case he had the case of some of the Canton officials. He was convicted of attempted extortion by means of atrocious threats, and it is tolerably certain that many other cases of a similar kind have occurred, but have not come to light because they were successful, the equivalent to produce a flow of dollars. The same people at home will hardly credit that such things can be in those latter days of enlightenment, for they are apt to take the Chinese at their own estimate, and consider them a highly civilized, mild, and gentle people, incapable of any judicial atrocity.

The thorough enlightenment of such worthy folk, and in order to correct the mistake so commonly made nowadays of supposing that the Chinese Government has materially changed, we would direct special attention to a proclamation which appeared in the *Kwong-sat* of the 8th November. This is a fulmination by the Viceroy against the Weising Lottery at Macao, one of many similar proclamations denouncing the Macao Lottery. On the occasion the promoters of the Macao Lottery are warned that although they think the selves safe enough—being under the jurisdiction of Portugal—they can be got through their families in China, or if they have no families there, they can be dealt with wherever they return to their natal land. This means, as plainly as words can put it, that the promoters of the Macao Weising Lottery are threatened with the vengeance of the Viceroy for an act committed in Portuguese territory and perfectly legal according to Portuguese law, the Macao Lottery being, in fact, a Government Lottery, and the Viceroy in threatening the farmer rear threatens the Portuguese Government. The Canton authorities would have no scruple whatever in seizing the wives, sons, daughters, brothers, or sisters of the Macao Weising farmers, and putting them to torture or throwing them into gaol, to fester, rot, starve until the Macao men, moved by the sufferings of their friends, consented to abandon their lucrative lottery. It is not very many years ago since a son of Kwok AHO-SHO, wealthy merchant of Hongkong, when on brief visit to Canton, was suddenly arrested on a trumped up charge, and thrown into one of the noisome prisons of Canton until his father—who was prescriber for having acted as pilot to the English fleet during the war with China—should purchase his release by payment of a large indemnity. After some months' incarceration, during which his health suffered materially, he was at last released, only, however, after very decided demands through the British Consul at the instance of the Hongkong Government. It is the consciousness of these malpractices and crooked ways that makes the Colonial Government so reluctant to rendite prisoners without being fully satisfied of their being guilty of the crimes alleged against them, for nothing more common than for charges to be trumped up to secure the arrest of persons who have rendered themselves obnoxious to the Chinese officials. Until their system of administration has been purged of the corruption that permeates it, from the humblest yamen runner to the highest official, the Chinese Government must not be surprised to find their demands met with reserve, the pledges received with distrust. At the same time, it is not desirable that this Colony should afford a safe asylum to all the criminals of Kwangtung who are able to reach it, and with due safeguards, the principle of extradition must therefore be acted upon.

SANITATION AND THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

In moving the second reading of the Bill to amend the Public Health Ordinances of 1881 the Acting Attorney-General referred with pardonable gratification to the successful working of that measure. For a time he appeared to be some little incalculable laugh at the Sanitary Board and its proceedings, but a different feeling is now entertained and a general endorsement will be given the Hon. E. J. ACKROYD's remark that the Government and the public owe a debt of gratitude to the members of the Sanitary Board for the time given in working out the Ordinance, for the interest taken in the work, and for the zeal shown in carrying out their powers. The hon. gentleman went on to say that "from the experience which the public has gained, and from the spirit in which these members have exercised their powers," he was perfectly sure "the public now would have no reason whatever to oppose any further extension of those powers." The public, we are sure, will offer no opposition, and why the Government should be afraid to entrust substantial powers to the Board is difficult to understand. The additional powers given by the Bill now before the Council, though they will greatly facilitate the work of the Board, can hardly be said to extend its sphere. Why should the Government, entertaining the confidence in the Sanitary Board expressed by Mr. ACKROYD, hesitate to entrust it with the control of the Water and Drainage Department? By the adoption of this course of legislation which is constantly arising between the public and the Department would be done away with or greatly reduced.

efficiency in the service would be more resolutely maintained.

Mr. ACKROYD referred on Thursday to the achievements of sanitary science in England, quoting some remarks made by Dr. ALFRED HILL, Medical Officer of Health for Birmingham, at the recent meeting of the British Medical Association. We find some further information on the same subject in an address delivered by SIR SPENCER WELLS at the opening of the Medical Department of the Owens College, Manchester. According to the figures, given by this authority, it appears that while in 1861-70 there were on an average 225 deaths annually to a million persons living in 1871-80 the proportion of deaths was only 41,232, a saving of 1,134 lives annually to each million, the gross yearly saving to England and Wales being about 30,000 lives. Exterior or fifth, fever (to which most of the deaths registered as fever, of which it was, Sir SPENCER said, of all other diseases that which was most largely and directly affected by sanitary measures. A decline under this head brooms, therefore, the most test available of the efficacy of sanitary administration. The decline in mortality for fever, as a cause of death, had been no less than 45 per cent., the last five years contributing to the register only 484 entries against 885 per million persons in the preceding ten years.

Out of a total of 457 deaths registered in Hongkong last month, no fewer than 126 returned as resulting from fever. The majority of the cases are classed as malarial, bearing in mind that with reference to these deaths there is no scientific system in classifying diseases, it may reasonably be assumed that a large proportion of the cases returned as malarial were in fact symptomatic. There were also 86 deaths last month from chest affections. There can, we think, be little doubt that the mortality under this heading is largely augmented by overcrowding and insanitary dwellings. One point mentioned by Sir SPENCER WELLS is worthy of attention on the part of the European community of Hongkong. Referring to Manchester—which has the unenviable notoriety of having the highest death-rate of the large towns in England, he asked, "Did they suppose for a moment that they could cultivate a crop of dandelions; that they could sing nettles in Accosote, and that their own gardens and fields in the suburbs would not suffer from the seeds carried there by the wind? And would they understand that neither they nor their children could or did escape the seeds of the infective diseases—no fatal, which would disappear if the details of a perfect system of sanitary administration were adopted and properly enforced? If asked why the mortality of Nottingham and Birmingham had been reduced so much in the last 20 years, while that of Manchester remained so high, he could only repeat that the sanitary laws neglected here had been observed there." Giving these remarks a local application, it will be seen that the European community of Hongkong has good reason to support the Sanitary Board in its efforts to improve the sanitary conditions of China-town.

THE CEMETERIES AT MOUNT DAVIS.

Those who contend that the graveyards at Mount Davis exercise a prejudicial effect on the health of the Western district will find confirmation of their opinion in the following utterances lately delivered. Sir SPENCER WELLS in a recent address said that if dead bodies (even those dead from zymotic diseases) were to be buried in the crowded graveyards or cemeteries, it might be quite hopeless to attempt to stamp out infective diseases. The germs of these diseases, he continued, are preserved in the earth far below the surface, and are brought up full of deadly power by earth-worms, and when the ground is disturbed at many years, the germs are in full of fatal activity. Burial reform is needed, not only as a means of general sanitary improvement, but especially as a mode of destroying the germs of zymotic diseases. Sir SPENCER is an advocate of cremation, and says that although some good may be done by better supervision of cemeteries and stricter enforcement of the provisions of the Burial Act, nothing short of a really radical reform and the substitution of cremation and burial of the ashes only for burial in the earth putrefying body can afford real security. In Paris it has been ascertained so it is claimed, that diarrhoea and ulcerous sore throat, are more prevalent in the immediate neighbourhood of the great cemeteries than in any other part of Paris. The authority of Sir MORRIS MARKES might also be quoted. The annual report of the Manchester Cremation Society concludes with the following passages:—"The results of recent research show that the disease-germs which have caused death retain their vitality even after many years of burial, and that therefore every body buried of persons who have died from such germ-produced disease is a possible source of a new outbreak. It is an evil deed to store up for the sorrow and pain of the coming generations such plagues as diphtheria, typhoid, cholera, and cruel deaths of all consumption, with its numerous victims. While we continue to do so it is hopeless to try and stamp out, as might otherwise be possible, all zymotic diseases. This Society, it may be remarked, is presided over by the Chancellor of the diocese, and has had at least modified encouragement from the present and the late Bishop, from which it would appear that the opposition to cremation on religious grounds is disappearing. It would be out of the question to attempt to introduce cremation in Hongkong either by compulsion or moral suasion; but if the burial-grounds could be removed far

Jaland, the same end would be secured as the protection of the public health is concerned. The Acting Governor intimates that short time ago that he still entertained the hope that the Government would be of being able to bring this about, and sincerely trust he may be successful. Details of His Excellency's scheme have been disclosed further than that it depends on the co-operation of the Chinese. Author in placing a new site for burial grounds the disposal of the colony. We fear will be some difficulty in securing the operation, but of the boon the change confer on the Colony there can be no doubt. The very nature of the soil and the ruggedness of the ground at Mount Pleasant render that locality unsuitable for the purpose of a graveyard, and failing the location of a site outside the colony, it will be well to see if a less objectionable site could not be found on the island itself.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF TONKIN

The Government of Indo-China appear to be thoroughly alive to the importance of adopting a liberal policy in order to the development of Tonkin. Both the Governor-General and M. BONNAFANT, the Assistant-Superior of Tonkin, are able and enlightened men, who see plainly that the country is to be opened up and its mineral and agricultural resources properly developed. Every facility must be given to the capitalists who are prepared to invest capital in enterprise. To this end, a Commissioner recently been appointed to revise and amend the Mining Regulations in the direction making them more liberal, and at the same time the taxes on exports have been reduced. If, therefore, the Paris Government are wise enough to approve the action of Indo-China Administration—which is probable, for M. COMBES has had experience in Resident in Tonkin—there will in future every encouragement given to foreign investment in mining enterprise in Tonkin, and the duty on minerals will be so light that Tonkin coal and other minerals will be able to compete on equal terms with the products of any country, and with great advantage over many. Of course, until the deliberations of the Commission are completed, and recommendations have been embodied in Mining Regulations, it would be premature to say more, but it is at least certain that great concessions are contemplated, and every desire has been shown by the Authorities to assist and encourage various companies formed with European capital to prospect and work the coal and other mines of this new land of promise. Meantime the work of consolidating the administration and securing good order has been going on steadily in the face of great difficulties. Piracy has in some provinces been rooted out, though in others it has been scotched, but as it is a well-known fact that many of the pirates have taken up residence for want of work, it is hoped that as soon as the competing mining enterprises are actively commencing the bulk of the so-called pirates will be transformed into peaceful miners. In fact, some of these men have already been converted into industrious workers, and work of pacification will no doubt proceed with great rapidity as the country gets set up to commerce and industry. The way, the steamer, and the mining engine between them will accomplish far more the work of permanent pacification than an army of occupation, however large and efficient. What is needed to make Tonkin as prosperous as Burma is the introduction of capital, and a liberal administration will judiciously encourage legitimate enterprise.

THE WATER AND DRAINAGE DEPARTMENT.

On the 14th instant the residents in the townships woke up to find their water cut off. No notice of the cutting off had been given by the Water and Drainage Department, consequently no provision had been made. But in some cases to be disposed of and other inconveniences to be subjected to. Naturally, complaints have been very bitter. It is of course admitted that the water must be cut off when alterations have to be made, but it is contended that it is the duty of the Department to give due notice, and also to make the necessary point at which water can be obtained. Other instances which revive the wish for a municipality under which the ratepayers might manage their own affairs, and themselves notice when they are going to turn the water off.

REVIEWS.

Further Evolution and the Nature of the "so-called Basis" of Mind. By NIEL GORDON, M.B., C.M., Edin., Yokohama, and Melbourne, and Hongkong. E. & S. PEARCE the subject matter than the author responsible for the very large number of scientific terms that are employed in the course of the "different ideas." It is a pity that the book. Not that it is well written; no word can be said against it at that score. The diction is choice and elegant, the sentences are well rounded, and the illustrations are clear and carefully applied. But there is no much "atoms" and "molecules," "protoplasm," "amobae," "germs" and "units," "new concepts," "new ideas," "new forms," "new types," "new," "organic mind" and "self-conscious mind," that is one is apt to get a little "mixed" indeed he does not find himself altogether wandering among loose? To enjoy the book one must be in love with the subject; in this case the book is well worth perusal and study. Evolution, itself imperfectly understood, may and must be explained, and the author, on many new paths to the scientific inquiry, along one of these Dr. Gordon moves warily yet firmly. It is impossible here to do a fair idea of a book written on a subject so far from the ordinary range of human knowledge. The author treats it in what may be called chronological order, beginning with a chapter on "The Domain of Mind," and concluding with a chapter on "The Evolution of Mind." It is a pity that the book is so long, and that the higher and more fully conceived mind the material individual comes to him from the outside. It includes an immensely wide range of dis-

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Hon. F. FLEMING, C.M.G.
Hon. W. M. DUNNE, C.M.G., Acting Colonel
Secretary.
Hon. E. J. ACKROYD, Acting Assistant
General.
Hon. H. E. WOODHOUSE, C.M.G., Acting
Colonial Treasurer.
Hon. E. BROWN, Surveyor-General.
Hon. N. H. MITCHELL-JONES, Acting Regi-
strar-General.
Hon. P. KYRIE.
Hon. C. P. (HATTE).
Hon. HO-KAI.
Hon. T. H. WEITHEMAD.
Mr. F. A. HAYLAND, Acting Clerk of Coun-
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